



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Department Reports 192 Cases of Whooping Cough

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced that 192 cases of whooping cough (pertussis) have been reported in the state. This number reflects cases identified since June 22, 2004.

The following is a breakdown by county of whooping cough cases reported to the department:

- Barnes – 1
- Benson – 1
- Burleigh – 16
- Cass – 2
- Dunn – 1
- Grand Forks – 3
- McHenry – 8
- McLean – 6
- Mountrail – 3
- Pierce – 1
- Rollette – 1
- Sargent – 1
- Stark – 1
- Stutsman – 1
- Ward – 143
- Williams – 3

Whooping cough is a contagious disease that lasts for many weeks and causes severe coughing with a “whooping” sound or coughing that leads to vomiting. The disease can be life threatening for infants and can cause moderate to severe illness in adults.

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

Whooping cough is characterized by one or more of the following symptoms:

- Prolonged cough (lasting for a week or more)
- Long spells of coughing with spasms
- Coughing with a whooping sound
- Coughing that leads to gagging or vomiting

People who have any of the above symptoms should contact their health-care provider to be evaluated for whooping cough. People who do not have any symptoms do not need to be tested.

The Department of Health urges people to take measures to prevent the spread of whooping cough, including:

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water. Hand washing is one of the best preventive measures, not only for whooping cough, but for all diseases.
- Using good respiratory manners. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing.
- Staying home from work or other recreational activities when you're ill. This will help prevent the spread of whooping cough to your friends, coworkers and family.

Children younger than 7 should be vaccinated to help prevent them from contracting the disease. Parents should contact their health-care providers if they have questions about their child's vaccination status. Children can receive their first vaccination against whooping cough when they are 6 weeks old. No vaccine is available for adults or children age 7 and older.

For more information about whooping cough, call 800.472.2180 or your local public health unit.

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